

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
22 November 2001 (22.11.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 01/87797 A1**(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C04B 28/02,  
38/10, E21B 43/02[FR/FR]; 3, Impasse du Labrador, 75015 Paris (FR).  
DING, Bellin [FR/FR]; 47, rue des Frères Lumière,  
91620 Nozay (FR). DROCHON, Brusse [FR/FR]; 8,  
place Georges Pompidou, F-93160 Noisy-le-Grand (FR).  
JAMES, Simon, [GB/GB]; 6 rue du Moulin Fidel, Apt  
B77, F-92350 Le Plessis-Robinson (FR).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP01/05511

(22) International Filing Date: 11 May 2001 (11.05.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(74) Agent: HYDEN, Martin; Etudes &amp; Productions Schlumberger, 1, rue Henri Becquerel - BP 202, F-92142 Clamart Cedex (FR).

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0006171 15 May 2000 (15.05.2000) FR  
01401167.0 4 May 2001 (04.05.2001) EP(81) Designated States (national): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ,  
BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE,  
DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID,  
IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT,  
LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL,  
PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ,  
UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.(71) Applicant (for FR only): SERVICES PETROLIERS  
SCHLUMBERGER (SPS) [FR/FR]; 42, rue Saint Dominique, F-75007 Paris (FR).(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian  
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European  
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,  
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF,  
CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (for AT, DE, DK, IT only): SCHLUMBERGER TECHNOLOGY B.V. [NL/NL]; Parkstraat 83-89, NL-2514 JG The Hague (NL).

**Published:**

— with international search report

(71) Applicant (for GB only): SCHLUMBERGER HOLDINGS LIMITED [—/—]; P.O. Box 71, Craigmuir Chambers, Road Town, Tortola (VG).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except AT, DE, DK, FR, GB, IT): SOFITECH N.V. [BE/BE]; Rue de Stalle 140, B-1180 Brussels (BE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DANICAN, Samuel

A1

WO 01/87797

(54) Title: PERMEABLE CEMENTS

(57) Abstract: A permeable cement composition comprises an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase, such as oil or gas, and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.

## PERMEABLE CEMENTS

The present invention relates to permeable cement compositions, in particular permeable cement compositions for use in oil or gas wells, or the like.

5

- In many oil well applications, cement is used both to secure a casing within the well and to provide zonal isolation between the different fluid-producing layers in the formation through which the well passes. In such cases, it is desirable for the cement to have very low permeability (permeability is the property of a material to allow a fluid to pass therethrough, typically measured in darcies "d" or millidarcies "md" and relative to a given fluid, e.g. oil or water). Fluid communication between the formation and the well is obtained by use of perforating charges placed next to the producing zones of interest. However, there are certain applications in which permeable cements are considered useful. Typically, these are regions in which it is only required to provide mechanical support to the formation or casing/liner near the well while still allowing flow from the formation into the well. One such example is where the producing zone comprises a poorly consolidated formation which requires stabilization.
- 10
- 15
- 20 There have been various proposals to provide permeable cements for well applications. One such proposal describes the use of a mixture of sand, cement and water suspended in a hydrocarbon for injection into the zone to be treated, see for example US 3,429,373; US 3,646,998; US 3,654,990; US 3,654,991; US 3,654,992; US 3,768,561; US 3,861,467; US 3,862,663; and US 3,948,672. Another proposal is
- 25 the use of a cement incorporating a material that can be removed to leave porosity and permeability, such as by dissolution with acid or decomposition by heat, see for example RU 2019689 and US 6,202,751. A yet further prior proposal is to use foamed cements, often with extreme foam qualities (foam quality is the ratio of the dispersed phase (gas) volume to total volume of foamed composition under given pressure and temperature conditions). Examples of such a proposal can be found in US 5,339,902.
- 30

Each of the prior proposals has one or more disadvantages. These include difficulty in producing a pumpable slurry, low compressive strength of the set cement, the

requirement for post-placement treatments or difficulty in providing or maintaining foams at high downhole pressures or at high foam qualities.

It is an object of the present invention to provide permeable cement compositions that 5 obviate or mitigate some or all of these problems.

One aspect of the invention comprises a permeable cement composition, comprising 10 an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.

The use of a hollow particulate material, such as micro-spheres or cenospheres, allows 15 development of a permeable structure while avoiding the use of very high quantities of the dispersed phase, such as high foam qualities, which can make the slurry difficult to form or place. Such materials, typically formed from aluminosilicate or other glass like materials, break down due to the chemical and thermal environment in 20 the setting cement. In breaking down these materials "release" their porosity and assist in interconnecting the dispersed fluid phase. The exact nature and amount of hollow material used depends upon requirements. A typical material can comprise 25 hollow spheres having average sizes in the range 350 - 50 microns and can be present in amounts of between 10% and 60% by volume of the dry materials used to form the slurry. A suitable source of such hollow materials is the SL range of E-Spheres products from Envirosheres Pty Ltd of Australia. These are available in various size grades, for example 56 micron, 100 - 180 micron, 290 micron and 320 micron.

The water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase can comprise gas such as air or nitrogen, 30 or liquids such as oil. In one embodiment of the invention, the dispersed phase is a gas and the cement slurry is formed as a foam. In another embodiment, the dispersed phase is an oil present as an emulsion in the aqueous slurry.

The hydraulic cement is preferably Portland cement which may or may not include pozzolanic material such as blast furnace slag or fly ash or natural materials such as pozzolana or calcined clays. It is also possible to use high-alumina cements also

known as Cement Fondu, plaster, Sorel cement, activated pozzolanic cements or any other hydraulic cement.

- Preferably the solid particles used to make the slurry comprise coarse particles having
- 5 a particle size in the range 100 – 800 microns, medium particles having particle sizes in the range 20 – 60 microns, and fine particles having particle sizes in the range 0.1 – 10 micron. Among these numerous possibilities, a combination comprising four types of particle, namely a Portland cement, fine particles with a mean size of about 3 microns, hollow cenospheres, and very coarse particles (more than 200 microns) is
- 10 one preferred case. However, systems using only coarse and fine particle sizes or medium and fine particle sizes or coarse and medium particles are also possible. The fine particles can be constituted by a micro-cement in some cases and a large particle size cement can comprise some or part of the coarse particles if required. The hollow particles are typically in the coarse particle range but can also fall in the medium
- 15 particle size range.

- Depending on requirements, different known additives can be added to the slurry such as dispersing agents, retarding agents or accelerators, or fluid loss control agents. In the case of a Portland cement, when the temperature is over 105°C, silica is added in a proportion of 30% to 50% by weight relative to the cement, as is known in the art to prevent retrogression of compressive strength.

- The coarse particles (e.g. hollow spheres, haematite, large particle size cement, etc.) can be present in an amount of up to 80% by volume, preferably 30% - 80% by
- 25 volume, more preferably 30% - 60% by volume, of the solid materials used to make the slurry. The medium particles (e.g. Portland class G cement, hollow spheres, etc.) can be present in an amount of up to 90% by volume, preferably 10% - 90% by volume, more preferably 30% - 60% by volume, of the solid materials used to make the slurry. The fine particles (e.g. Portland micro-cement, slag, etc.) are preferably
- 30 present in an amount of 0% - 40% by volume, more preferably about 10 % by volume, of the solid materials used to make the slurry.

The liquid fraction of the slurry is typically in the range 38% - 50% by volume of the slurry when the dispersed phase is a gas. When the dispersed phase is oil, the water

fraction can comprise 38% - 50% by volume of the water and solids combined and the oil 40% - 60% by volume of the total.

In the case of an oil emulsion, the use of degradable surfactants can be used to  
5 mitigate some of the detrimental effects on the cement setting mechanism. Suitable  
degradable surfactants are, for example, ethoxylated castor oil surfactants of various  
ethoxy chain lengths such as those sold by Akzo Nobel under the Berol trade name,  
e.g. Berol 108, B27, 829 and 192 (in order of decreasing chain length).

10 Also falling within the scope of the invention are the following remedial applications  
of the cement compositions described above:

Stopping sand production from a well. When the reservoir is constituted by  
unconsolidated or poorly consolidated sand, or by poorly bound sandstone or where  
15 the formation matrix can be easily dissolved by water, fluid flow into the well entrains  
grains of sand. The production of sand can lead to a stoppage in well production. To  
avoid such a situation, a gravel pack or filter screens are normally installed inside the  
well to stop the sand. Over time, these can become soiled or blocked with fine  
particles and replacing them is difficult and expensive. Placing a permeable cement  
20 according to the invention behind the casing and producing the formation fluids  
through this layer can prevent sand production into the well and prevent it from  
becoming necessary to perform the standard operations.

25 The permeable cement compositions of the invention have the advantage over  
conventional solutions in that a permeable pack can be made without requiring fluid  
leakoff to concentrate a solid slurry.

When gravel-packing (or frac-packing) long intervals and/or heterogeneous  
permeability formations excessive leakoff may occur in certain areas leading to  
30 premature screen out and incomplete packing of the annulus. This has previously been  
overcome by mechanical means (shunt tubes). Permeable cement according to the  
invention will provide a chemical means to do the same job by being able to form a  
permeable-pack without requiring leakoff and hence avoiding the potential for screen-

out and the need for mechanical placement technologies that anticipate this and provide alternative flow paths.

In some sand-producing formations, where some form of sand control was not used initially, hydrocarbon production has led to caverns/voids being formed behind casing. The size of the caverns is unknown (no tools are available to measure the size). In such a situation, to stop further formation sand production and/or to support the casing, a conventional method would be to pump curable resin-coated proppant slurry into the cavern. Ideally with leak off this would concentrate the slurry forming a permeable consolidated pack in the cavern. However, as the size of the cavern is unknown it is impossible to design a treatment that would guarantee that the entire cavern would be filled. For example if the leakoff rate is higher than expected then the slurry could dehydrate too quickly causing an early screen out perhaps leaving the cavern only half filled. However, with permeable cement according to this invention, it is possible to continue pumping to fill the entire cavern. If the cement displaced reservoir fluid back into the formation quickly in one area as soon as the cement reached the rock face it would not go any further. The slurry behind is still pumpable (not dehydrated) so that continued pumping would force the cement to fill the entire cavern.

20

Simple replacement of the cement behind the casing. This can be carried out with a conventional cement, but then the casing and the new layer of cement needs to be perforated again to re-connect the well to the reservoir, with the risk of the connection not being made if the cement layer is thicker than planned or perforation is not deep enough. Injecting a permeable cement according to the invention avoids the need for perforation and typically costs less and guarantees that connection will be established in all cases.

25  
30

Applications of the permeable cement compositions in primary cementing operations are also possible, as follows:

When the strength of the formation is sufficient to allow it, or when the well is highly deviated the cost and/or difficulty related to effectively placing a casing are avoided by carrying out what is known as an uncased or barefoot completion. Sand packing or gravel packing can then be installed if the reservoir might produce sand. A pre-perforated blank liner can also be employed. Placing a layer of permeable cement at the surface of the well walls can avoid the need for such operations. Furthermore, when the formation of the reservoir is not sufficiently strong for that type of simplified completion and it would otherwise have been necessary to put a casing into position with cementing between the casing and the well wall, putting the permeable cement of the invention into position can reinforce the sides of the well and can avoid the need for a casing and subsequent perforation thereof.

When completion with a casing is unavoidable because the rock of the reservoir is very poorly consolidated, placing the permeable cement of the invention between the casing and the sides of the well, instead of a conventional cement, can avoid the need for installing gravel packing or sand packing which is very expensive.

The invention will now be described by way of the following non-limiting examples:

20 EXAMPLE 1

Slurry A (reference): This slurry corresponds to the prior art. It comprises a class G cement and water such that the density of the slurry is 1900 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (15.8 pounds per gallon, ppg). The slurry is foamed after adding surfactants (aqueous mixture of polyglycols, oxyalkylates and methanol; and a mixture of ethanol, 2 butoxyethanol and ammonium alcohol ethoxysulfate – chain length 6 - 10) in an amount of 0.084 gallons per sack (0.007 l/kg) of powder, to obtain a foam quality of 40% (i.e. the volume of the foam represented 40% of the final volume of the foamed slurry).

30 The compressive strength and water permeability are measured using samples which are left at ambient temperature and at atmospheric pressure for 48 hours (h) then in an oven at 85°C for 5 days. The compressive strength is expressed in MPa, with pounds per square inch (psi) in brackets.

The properties of a slurry prepared in accordance with the invention is presented and compared:

- Slurry B: A mixture of powders is prepared comprising 30% by volume of haematite particles with a mean size of about 300 microns; 30% by volume of hollow cenospheres with a mean size of 180 microns; 30% by volume of class G Portland cement and 10% by volume of a Portland/slag micro-cement with a mean size of about 3 microns. Water and a polynaphthalene sulfonate-based super-plasticizer in an amount of 0.07 gallons per sack (0.006 l/kg) of powder are mixed with this powder such that the volume percentage of liquid in the slurry is 40%. It should be noted that a sack of powder is defined by analogy with a sack of cement, one sack being 45.359kg of mixture. In other words, 1gps = 0.0834 l of additive per kg of mixture.

- The slurry is foamed using the same procedure, after adding surfactants as in Slurry A, to obtain a foam quality of 40% (i.e. the volume of the foam represented 40% of the final volume of the foamed slurry).

- The compressive strength and water permeability are measured using samples which are left at ambient temperature and at atmospheric pressure for 48 h then in an oven at 20 85°C for 5 days.

Slurry	A (reference)	B
Porosity before foaming	59%	40%
Compressive strength, MPa (psi)	5.93 (860)	5.59 (810)
Water permeability (Darcy)	0.008	1.2

- This example demonstrates that a composition within the scope of the invention can provide comparable compressive strength to prior art slurries while demonstrating dramatically increased permeability, despite the lower initial porosity of the slurry.

**EXAMPLE 2**

The properties of five slurries prepared in accordance with the invention but foamed with different foam qualities are presented and compared:

- Basic slurry: A mixture of powders is prepared comprising 30% by volume of haematite particles with a mean size of about 300 microns; 30% by volume of hollow spheres with a mean size of 180 microns; 30% by volume of class G Portland cement and 10% by volume of a Portland/slag micro-cement with a mean size of about 3 microns. Water and a polynaphthalene sulfonate-based super-plasticizer in an amount of 0.07 gallons per sack of powder (0.006 l/kg) are mixed with this powder such that the volume percentage of liquid in the slurry is 40%. Surfactants are added to the basic slurry and the slurries foamed to obtain a foam qualities of 30% to 50% (a foam quality of 30% means that the foam volume represents 30% of the final volume of the slurry).

Slurry	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Porosity before foaming	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Foam quality	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
Compressive strength, MPa (psi)	8.27 (1200)	6.90 (1000)	5.59 (810)	4.48 (650)	2.83 (410)
Water permeability (Darcy)	0.0045	0.160	1.2	6.1	>12

15

The compressive strength and water permeability are measured using samples which are left at ambient temperature and at atmospheric pressure for 48 h then in an oven at 85°C for 5 days.

20 **EXAMPLE 3**

The properties of two slurries prepared in accordance with the invention, both containing self-destructive particles but with coarse particles of differing size and nature, are presented and compared:

- Slurry D: A mixture of powders is prepared comprising 30% by volume of haematite particles with a mean size of about 300 microns; 30% by volume of hollow cenospheres) with a mean size of 180 microns; 30% by volume of class G Portland cement and 10% by volume of a Portland/slag micro-cement with a mean size of

about 3 microns. Water and a polynaphthalene sulfonate-based super-plasticizer in an amount of 0.07 gallons per sack of powder (0.006 l/kg) are mixed with this powder such that the volume percentage of liquid in the slurry is 40%.

- 5    **Slurry E:** A mixture of powders is prepared comprising 30% by volume of calcium carbonate particles with a mean size of about 500 microns; 30% by volume of hollow cenospheres with a mean size of 180 microns; 30% by volume of class G Portland cement and 10% by volume of a Portland/slag micro-cement with a mean size of about 3 microns. Water and a polynaphthalene sulfonate-based super-plasticizer in an amount of 0.07 gallons per sack of powder (0.006 l/kg) are mixed with this powder such that the volume percentage of liquid in the slurry is 40%.
- 10

- These two slurries are foamed using the same procedure, after adding surfactants as in slurry A, to obtain a foam quality of 35% (i.e., the volume of the foam represented 15    35% of the final volume of the foamed slurry).

Slurry	D	E
Porosity before foaming	40%	40%
Compressive strength	6.90 (1000)	5.79 (840)
Water permeability (D)	0.160	0.270

- The compressive strength and water permeability are measured using samples which are left at ambient temperature and at atmospheric pressure for 48 h then in an oven at 20    85°C for 5 days.

#### Example 4

A formulation demonstrating good properties with 60% particles of average size between 20 and 50 microns and 30% of large particles.

25

A powder blend is mixed containing 10% by volume mix portland micro-cement/slag, average size 3 microns, 60% class G cement and 30% hollow spheres of average size 320 microns. Water and polynaphthalene sulphonate dispersant (0.07 gallons per sack

of powder blend, 0.006 l/kg) are added so that the volume of liquid in the slurry is 45% and the slurry is foamed as above to obtain a foam quality of 40%.

5 The slurry is heated in a sealed container for two days at 85°C. The resultant cement has a permeability of 1.2 darcy and a compressive strength of 910 psi.

#### Example 5

A formulation demonstrating that high permeability can be obtained with two particle sizes only and with 40% fine particles.

10 A powder blend is mixed containing 40% by volume Portland micro-cement/slag, average size 3 microns, 30% hollow spheres of average size 180 microns and 30% hematite of average size 300 microns. Water and polynaphthalene sulphonate dispersant (0.07 gallons per sack of powder blend, 0.006 l/kg) are added so that the  
15 volume of liquid in the slurry is 45% and the slurry is foamed as above to obtain a foam quality of 55%.

The slurry is left in a sealed container for two days at ambient temperature and then 5 days in an oven at 85°C. The resultant cement has a permeability of 13 darcy and a  
20 compressive strength of 300 psi.

#### Example 6

A formulation including large particle size cement as some of the large particles giving increased compressive strength whilst retaining significant permeability.

25 The formulation is identical to C3 above in Example 3 (40% foam, 30% hematite, 30% hollow spheres, 30% cement and 10% micro cement) except that hematite is replaced by large particle cement. Formulation C3 has a permeability of 1.2 darcy and compressive strength of 810 psi. This formulation with hematite replaced by large  
30 particle size cement has permeability of 0.62 Darcy but compressive strength increases to 1240 psi.

#### Example 7

Permeable cement can be made without large particles.

A powder blend is mixed containing 10% by volume mix Portland micro-cement/slag, average size 3 microns, 35% class G cement and 55% hollow spheres of average size 55 microns. Water and polynaphthalene sulphonate dispersant (0.07 gallons per sack of powder blend, 0.006 l/kg) are added so that the volume of liquid in the slurry is 45% and the slurry is foamed as above to obtain a foam quality of 40%.

5 The slurry is left in a sealed container for two days at ambient temperature and then 5 days in an oven at 85°C. The resultant cement has a permeability of 0.15 darcy and a  
10 compressive strength of 1310 psi.

#### Emulsion formulations

15 One approach for emulsion formulations within the scope of the invention is to make the slurry blend (particles, dispersant and water) and then mix in surfactant and oil to give an emulsion (oil in cement phase or cement phase in oil depending on the surfactant).

#### Example 8

20 A powder base made up with 30% cement (medium particles), 10% micro cement (fine particles), 30% hollow spheres and 30% hematite (large particles). Water is added to be 40% by volume of the slurry and the same dispersant is used as in the foam formulations described above. Surfactant is added at 0.04 gallons per sack of powders (0.003 l/kg) and oil is added so as to be 40% of the volume of the total  
25 emulsion system. The oil used is a linear alphaolefin. The slurries are placed in an oven for 2 days at 85°C.

Two surfactants are used – a sulfated ethoxylated nonyl phenol (slurry F) and an ethylene-oxide propylene oxide surfactant with a cloud point at around 60°C (slurry  
30 G).

Slurry F shows a compressive strength of 345 psi and permeability to water <0.1 md.  
Slurry G shows a compressive strength of 649 psi and permeability to water of 2.5 md and a permeability to oil of 20 md.

**Example 9**

- A powder base is prepared with 30% cement, 10% micro cement, 50% hollow spheres and 10% large particle size cement. Water is added so as to be 40% by volume of the slurry and a dispersant used as in the foam examples above. Oil is added at 40%, 50% or 60% of volume of total and the surfactant is used at 0.9% by volume of oil added. The slurries are placed in an oven for 2 days at 85°C.

40% oil slurry: permeability to water of 4md, compressive strength =481 psi

- 10 50% oil slurry: permeability to water of 78md and a permeability to oil of 249 md, compressive strength to water of 349 psi  
60% oil slurry: permeability to water of 61md, compressive strength =138 psi

Increasing the amount of oil allows greater connectivity with other oil droplets and with hollow spheres so as to create a potentially permeable structure. High levels of oil and surfactant can inhibit setting of the cement and hence inhibit the destruction of the hollow spheres which in turn impacts the permeability of the final cement.

**Example 10**

- 20 By using a degradable surfactant the impact on development of a permeable structure as described above can be mitigated.

A powder base is made up with 30% cement, 10% micro cement, 50% hollow spheres and 10% large particle size cement and water is added so as to be 40% by volume of the slurry and dispersant used as in the foam examples above. Three ethoxylated castor oil surfactants are used with decreasing ethoxy- chain lengths – surfactant A > surfactant B > surfactant C. The surfactants are used at 0.06 gallons per sack of powders (0.005 l/kg). Oil is added so as to be 40% of the volume of the total emulsion system. The oil used is a linear alphaolefin. The fluids are placed in an oven for 2 days at 85°C.

Surfactant A system: permeability to water of 0.1 md, compressive strength 618 psi

Surfactant B system: permeability to water of 4.5 md, compressive strength 449 psi

Surfactant C system: permeability to water of 75 md, compressive strength 1208 psi

**Example 11**

A powder base is made up with 10% micro cement, 30% class G cement, 30% hematite, 30% hollow spheres. The powder is mixed with water and dispersant (total 5 40% of slurry volume) and the resulting slurry placed under 3000 psi pressure for 10 minutes to simulate the effect of well pressures on the hollow spheres (some may break). The slurry is then foamed to 40% quality and put in a sealed cell for 2 days at 85°C. After setting the initial permeability to water is 8.9 Darcy decreasing with time and rate to 3 Darcy. The permeability to oil of the same sample is 13 Darcy increasing 10 to 19 Darcy with time and rate. The difference in permeability to oil and water will allow preferential production of oil from a formation producing both oil and water.

## CLAIMS

- 1 A permeable cement composition, comprising an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.
- 2 A cement composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hollow particulate material comprises micro-spheres or cenospheres.
- 3 A cement composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the hollow particulate material has particles sizes in the range 350 - 50 microns.
- 4 A cement composition as claimed in any of claims 1 - 3, wherein the hollow particulate material is present in an amount of 10% - 60% by volume of dry materials used to make the slurry.
- 5 A cement composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the dispersed fluid phase comprises air, nitrogen or oil.
- 6 A cement composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the cement comprises Portland cement, pozzolanic material, blast furnace slag, fly ash, pozzolana, calcined clays, high-alumina cements, plaster, Sorel cement, or activated pozzolanic cements.
- 7 A cement composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises solid materials including a combination of at least two of a fine particulate material having particle sizes in the range 0.1 - 10 micron, a medium particulate material having particle sizes in the range 20 - 60 micron and a coarse particles having particle sizes in the range 100 - 800 micron.
- 8 A cement composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the fine particulate material comprises micro-cement.

- 9 A cement composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the coarse particulate material comprises large particle size cement.
- 5 10 A cement composition as claimed in any of claims 7 – 9, wherein the hollow particulate material comprises the medium or coarse particulate material.
- 10 11 A cement composition as claimed in any of claims 7 - 10, wherein the coarse particulate material is present in an amount of 30% – 80% by volume of dry materials used to make the slurry.
- 15 12 A cement composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coarse particulate material is present in an amount of 30% – 60% by volume of dry materials used to make the slurry.
- 13 A cement composition as claimed in any of claims 7 – 12, wherein the medium particulate material is present in an amount of 10% - 90% by volume of dry materials used to make the slurry.
- 20 14 A cement composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the medium particulate material is present in an amount of 30% - 60% by volume of solid material used to make the slurry.
- 15 25 A cement composition as claimed in any of claims 7 – 14, wherein the fine particulate material is present in an amount of up to 40% by volume of dry materials used to make the slurry.
- 30 16 A cement composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the fine particulate material is present in an amount of about 10% by volume of dry materials used to make the slurry.
- 17 A cement composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the slurry comprises a liquid fraction in the range 38% - 50% by volume of the slurry when the dispersed phase is a gas.

- 18 A cement composition as claimed in any of claims 1 – 16, wherein when the dispersed phase comprises oil, the slurry comprises 38% - 50% by volume of an aqueous phase and 40% - 60% by volume of the total of oil.
- 5
- 19 A cement composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the slurry further comprises a degradable surfactant.
- 20 A cement composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the degradable surfactant comprises an ethoxylated castor oil.
- 10
- 21 A cement composition as claimed in any of claims 1 – 18, wherein the slurry further comprises a surfactant with a cloud point.
- 22 A method of remedial treatment of voids behind casing in a borehole, comprising pumping a cement slurry into the void and allowing it to set, the cement slurry comprising an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.
- 15
- 20
- 23 A method of completing a well, comprising pumping a cement slurry into an annulus around a casing, screen or slotted liner placed in a well and allowing it to set, the cement slurry comprising an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.
- 25
- 30 24 A method of preventing sand production from an underground formation into a well, comprising pumping a cement slurry into a region adjacent the formation and allowing it to set, the cement slurry comprising an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being

one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.

- 5 25 A method of replacing eroded cement behind a casing in a well, comprising pumping a cement slurry into the region of the eroded cement and allowing it to set, the cement slurry comprising an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.
- 10  
15 26 A method of selectively producing oil from an oil and water producing formation, comprising pumping a cement slurry into or adjacent to a producing formation, allowing the cement to set, so as to produce fluid from the reservoir with an oil water ratio higher than would normally be possible from an untreated formation, the cement slurry comprising an aqueous slurry of a hydraulic cement including a water-immiscible dispersed fluid phase and a hollow particulate material, the hollow particulate material being one which breaks down in the presence of the cement so as to leave voids which together with the dispersed phase create a permeable structure in the cement.
- 20

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No.  
PCT/EP 01/05511

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 C04B28/02 C04B38/10 E21B43/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 C04B E21B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 814 067 A (SOFITECH NV) 29 December 1997 (1997-12-29) page 3, line 25 - line 39	1-6,8, 19,23
P,Y	WO 01 09056 A (SOFITECH NV ; SCHLUMBERGER CA LTD (CA); DROCHON BRUNO (FR); GARNIER) 8 February 2001 (2001-02-08) examples	1-3,5-8, 17,19, 23-26
Y	US 3 429 373 A (HARNSBERGER BOBBY G ET AL) 25 February 1969 (1969-02-25) cited in the application claims	1-3,5-8, 17,19, 23-26
A	FR 2 749 843 A (SCHLUMBERGER CIE DOWELL) 19 December 1997 (1997-12-19) claims	1-5 -/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 August 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/09/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patenttaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl  
Fax. (+31-70) 340-3018

Authorized officer

Theodoridou, E

C(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 234 344 A (TINSLEY JOHN M ET AL) 18 November 1980 (1980-11-18) claims	1,2,5,6, 8,23
A.	US 2 288 557 A (VOLLMER LESLIE W) 30 June 1942 (1942-06-30) page 1, right-hand column, line 34 -page 3, left-hand column, line 40	1,2,6, 23,26
A	US 2 793 957 A (G.B.MANGOLD) 28 May 1957 (1957-05-28) the whole document	1-9,23

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

Inte  
PC / LP 01/05511

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0814067	A	29-12-1997	FR	2749844 A1	19-12-1997
			CA	2207885 A1	18-12-1997
			EP	0814067 A1	29-12-1997
			NO	972799 A	19-12-1997
			US	6060535 A	09-05-2000
WO 0109056	A	08-02-2001	FR	2796935 A1	02-02-2001
			AU	6270200 A	19-02-2001
			WO	0109056 A1	08-02-2001
US 3429373	A	25-02-1969	NONE		
FR 2749843	A	19-12-1997	FR	2749843 A1	19-12-1997
			FR	2749844 A1	19-12-1997
			US	6060535 A	09-05-2000
US 4234344	A	18-11-1980	AU	541807 B2	24-01-1985
			CA	1148177 A1	14-06-1983
			DE	3019006 A1	20-11-1980
			DK	216780 A	19-11-1980
			FR	2456717 A1	12-12-1980
			GB	2050343 A ,B	07-01-1981
			IT	1149883 B	10-12-1986
			NL	8002846 A ,B,	20-11-1980
			NO	801466 A ,B,	19-11-1980
US 2288557	A	30-06-1942	NONE		
US 2793957	A	28-05-1957	US	2786531 A	26-03-1957

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)**